

Agilent Ref: 10021235-1
United States Application Serial No. 10/670,551

RESPONSE

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 1-10, as well as new Claims 21-30, the only claims pending in this application.

Formal Matters

Claims 1-8, 10, and 21-30 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claims 1-10 and 21-30 were examined. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 were rejected and claims 4, 9, and 10 were objected to. Claims 21-30 were allowed.

Claims 1 has been amended. The amendment to the claim is made solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, and shall not be construed as an acquiescence to any objection or rejection. Support for the amendment to the claim is found in the claims as originally filed, and throughout the specification, in particular at the following exemplary locations: original Claim 9.

New claim 31 has been added. Support for the new claim can be found in the claims as originally filed and throughout the specification at, for example: original claims 1 and 5, and paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9.

As the above amendments introduce no new matter to the application, their entry is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants express gratitude in Examiner's indication that claims 21-30 are allowed and that claims 4, 9, and 10 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 for allegedly being anticipated by Knoll et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,393,401). In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks made herein this rejection is respectfully traversed as applied and as it may be applied to the pending claims.

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In the spirit of expediting prosecution and without conceding as to the correctness of the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 9. The Office Action did not include claim 9 in the rejection and indicated that claim 9 is directed to allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for allegedly being rendered obvious by Knoll et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,393,401). In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks made herein this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 9. The Office Action did not include claim 9 in the rejection and indicated that claim 9 is directed to allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,

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